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BOOK REVIEWS

The School and Its Life. By CHARLES B. GILBERT. New York and Chicago: Silver, Burdett & Co. Pp. 259.

The above volume is a suggestive, disconnected, but not unrelated group of twenty-four short essays on subjects which are sure to be uppermost, at one time or another, in the experience of every school superintendent. The fact that the book lacks continuity diminishes its value, but the treatment of some subjects—e. g., chapter xv, of the judging and rating of teachers—shows a grasp of the real situation and a breadth of vision born only of real contact with a great system of schools. The benefits of co-operation applied to parent, teacher, and pupil are clearly shown.

Some of the strongest chapters in the book discuss the superintendent, his relations with teachers, and his social position in the community. If he is the right man in the right place, he can practically dominate the situation. If he cannot dominate the situation, nor secure enough power to make the board follow his leadership, he is not the man for the place. No system can be devised which can make a strong, successful man out of a weak one.

Mothers' clubs, parents' associations, and such efforts are commended as means of securing common, desirable information, and keeping the schools democratic. The last chapter sets forth "centralization of schools," elective or appointive boards, large or small boards of education, tenure of office for superintendents and teachers; the final test of all being the welfare of the individual children in schools.

J. STANLEY BROWN